

# MICHIGAN FARMER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, the Mechanic Arts, and Rural and Domestic Affairs.

NEW

Perfect Agriculture is the foundation of all Trade and Industry.—Liebig.

SERIES.

VOL. VII.

DETROIT, FEBRUARY 15, 1849.

NO. 4.

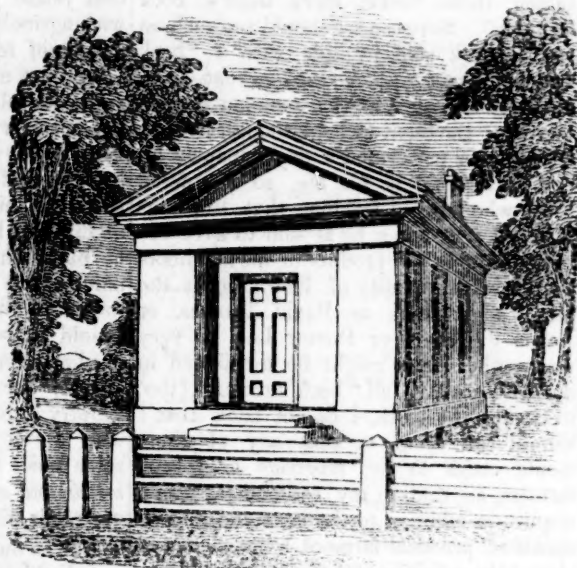
## CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

A distinguished travelling lecturer on education, once asserted that he could at once know a district school-house from any other building, by its being the *worst looking* house in the neighborhood. Broken windows and broken walls, and a general air of desolation, have in many cases been the leading features. If children are to be taught the knowledge of order and comfort, these are miserable examples to set before them. In strong contrast with such pictures, is one described by DOWNING, a building erected for a *free school*, by a private gentleman in Dutchess county, as an example for a district school. But a single glance at it, told in a moment that the evil spirit had been cast out, and the good spirit had taken its place. The utmost neatness and cleanliness appeared in every part. Beautiful vines and creepers climbed upon the walls, and hung in festoons over the windows. Groups of trees and flowering shrubs, were thriving within its enclosure. A bit of neat lawn surrounded the building, and was evidently an object of care and respect with the pupils themselves. Such an example before children could hardly fail to exert a controlling influence, to continue through after life.

HENRY BARNARD, Commissioner of Schools in Rhode Island, points out and suggests remedies for some of the crying evils in almost all the common schools at present existing—evils which exert a most injurious influence on the health and minds of pupils.

We allude especially to improved modes of *ventilation warming, and seating* the inmates of common school-houses. A want of proper attention to the two first most important considerations is the cause of a great deal of bodily discomfort; and we have the opinion of some of the most skillful physicians of the country, for believing that a large number of the spinal distortions of late so prevalent, owe their origin to the cramped and unsuitable seats and writing desks, to which the tender frames of pupils are confined in schools.

To assist in banishing these evils, Mr. Barnard has not only very lucidly explained the advantages of proper ventilation, but he gives diagrams and details, showing how the Boston mode of ventilation, (a most



excellent one) is easily applied to all school houses, so as effectually to prevent the possibility of the accumulation of deleterious or impure air.

In speaking of the accommodations in primary schools, we find the following, among other valuable hints for the teacher's own use:—

Little children are made to suffer, and many of them permanently, from being forced to sit long in one position, without any occupation for mind or muscles, on seats without backs, and so high that their feet cannot touch, much less rest on the floor. Nothing but the fear of punishment or its frequent application, can keep a live child still under such circumstances, and even that cannot do it long. Who has not an aching remembrance of the torture of this unnatural confinement, and the burning sense of injustice, for punishment inflicted for some unavoidable manifestation of uneasiness and pain? Even though the seats are as comfortable as can be made, young children cannot and should not be kept still upon them long at a time, and never without something innocent or useful to do; and under no circumstances longer than twenty-five or thirty minutes in one position, nor so long at one study, and that with frequent and free exercise in the open air. To accomplish this, great and radical changes in the views and practice of teachers, parents, and the community at large must take place. Nowhere, in the whole department of practical education, is a gradual change more needed, or should sooner be commenced.

## Importation of Pure Breed Saxon Sheep.

We were highly gratified in noticing on board the barque Weiland, from Bremen, arrived here on the 25th of November, a lot of seventeen Saxon sheep, for Mr. J. A. Taintor, and Abijah Catlin, Esq., of Hartford, Connecticut. These sheep were purchased under the direction of Mr. Taintor, from two of the choicest flocks in upper Saxony; and notwithstanding their long journey, they arrived in good health and condition.

The wool of these sheep is of the finest and best quality; and the animals have more size, and we should think constitution also, than any other Saxon sheep we ever saw. Indeed, till now, we have had but an imperfect notion of what constituted a first rate Saxon sheep. To give our readers an idea of these superb animals, we would inform them that a three-year-old buck weighs 150 lbs.; at the same time, he is of fine proportions and carries the largest, and one of the finest and softest fleeces we ever inspected. The younger rams are equally promising of their age. The lot strike us as being as much superior to ordinary Saxons, as Mr. Taintor's several importations of the Spanish Merinoes have proved. His personal acquaintance with the largest wool growers of Spain, France, and Germany, gives him a decided advantage in importing the very best sheep which those countries produce.

The number of *really fine* or Electoral sheep in Saxony, has never exceeded one and a half millions. At this time there are but about thirteen hundred thousand.

During the past four years, large numbers have been taken to Russia for the purpose of improving the sheep of that country. Immense flocks are now forming near the sea of Azof, where the soil and climate have proved highly favorable for the production of fine wool. In the United States, we have millions of acres equally well suited to the growth of this superior quality of wool, and we regret that more attention is not given to its production, for it could not but be profitable. The clip of the best flocks in Saxony, is sold in fleeces at very near a dollar a pound, to the fine broadcloth manufacturers of Belgium and France. As the duty is low on wool imported into these countries, why may not the United States assist to supply the demand as well as Saxony?

We recommend those who desire to improve their fine flocks, to examine this importation of Messrs. Taintor and Catlin. We are confident they will be highly gratified.

ified in doing so; and acknowledge with ourselves, that they are deserving the best wishes of all American flockmasters, for their patriotic and meritorious efforts in so liberally furnishing the means of improving the fine woolled sheep of our country.—*American Agriculturist.*

#### Agricultural Address.

We are glad to be able to record the fact that the fine agricultural county of Lenawee has at last wiped off the reproach of having no Agricultural Society—a reproach under which several of our oldest and most populous counties still rest.—How long will they suffer this reproach?

The following is an extract from the interesting address of Joseph Gibbons, Esq., delivered on the occasion of the organization of the above named society. We shall give more of it in our next:

One farmer believes, (and I am sorry to say that so far from this being a mere imaginary case, there appear to be many such men,) that he has arrived at the "ne plus ultra" of Agricultural knowledge—that "no man can teach him much about farming—he was brought up to it and has followed it all his life—he would not give a cent for all the 'book knowledge' contained in all the agricultural papers in the country. Another by careful observation and enquiry into the natural history and habits of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, by making himself acquainted with the experiments and facts ascertained by others, and by investigating the laws of chemical analysis, and ascertaining the constituent principles that compose the various kinds of plants and vegetable productions of the earth, and the soil that produces them, together with the relation and effects of light, heat, electricity, air, water, &c., upon them, and discovering by the researches of geologists in relation to organic remains, that the earth has at some former period of its existence, produced plants of immensely larger growth than any of the same species to be found at the present time, and knowing from the fixed and established laws of nature that *exactly similar* circumstances would *necessarily* produce similar results now, he concludes like the great Newton, that so far from having nothing more to learn in relation to agriculture, he is but "as a child playing on the sea shore and gathering a few trifling pebbles, while the whole ocean of truth lays unexplored before him!" That man, then, has the best right to his opinions, who has had the greatest amount of experience, and has taken the most pains to investigate, and the best means to arrive at a just conclusion in relation to any proposition. But few, if any of us, have a *very good right* to think we know much about farming yet; that is, we so understand the true scientific principles of Agriculture and Horticulture, as to reduce them to the greatest practical benefit, and therefore, that in forming our

opinions we should not only pay a due and proper regard to the views of those who have given greater attention to the subject, but in addition to their investigation and experiments, we should make use of the best means within our power to arrive at just and correct conclusions, founded on experiment to test theories, establish facts, &c. No doubt but many a self-conceited professed *practical* farmer would ridicule such sentiments as some of the preceding, calling them "stuff, mere theory, book farming." Suppose we should set such an one to work side by side with a "book farmer," a *real full-blooded, thorough-going book farmer*, such as that eminent French Chemist, Lavosier, (who, although he probably never performed a day's manual labor at farming in his life, so instructed those who labored for him, that from his farm of 240 acres, he is said to have obtained double the produce of his neighbors on the same quantity of land,) or as the late Judge Buel, or David Thomas, or Lewis F. Allen, or Doctor Lee, or very many others that might be mentioned in our own country, all "book farmers," (tho' to confess the truth, I do not know that I should call them, or that any of them would claim to be, *thorough bred* book farmers, as that, in my estimation, would require in addition to the facts and experiments of practical farmers, a knowledge of almost the whole range of natural sciences, among which geology, chemistry, and vegetable physiology would claim very prominent places.) But I seem to hear some one say, "what! is he so simple and visionary as to suppose that every farmer must thoroughly understand chemistry and botany, and geology, mineralogy, ornithology, entomology, physiology, and all other *ologies*?" Not by any means; for great as the pleasure and advantage of such knowledge would be to him, I very well know that *every farmer* has not the time or means, or even the capacity, for acquiring such knowledge. But *some* farmers should understand them and apply them to practical use, and we should be willing to avail ourselves of the benefit of their knowledge, and pay due respect to their suggestions in making experiments to test the truth and availability of principles they may have discovered, and in obtaining through their agency, the analysis of our soils &c. In this way we might commence a set of rational experiments that would probably lead to very great improvements in your agricultural operations; for is there not just ground to believe from well authenticated facts that are constantly reaching our ears, that such improvements may be made. Some of us have repeatedly seen in this county, on some of the lightest soil in the vicinity, more than 100, even as high as 113 bushels of corn grown to the acre, by our highly respected and much lamented friend and fellow-citizen, the late Darius Comstock, (another 'book farmer:') and he assured me in the strongest terms, that it was a great mistake in any one to

suppose that the increased trouble and expense, were in proportion to the increased yield—113 bushels of such a crop probably not costing more than two-thirds as much as they would have done raised in the usual way, on *three* acres of land, which I think would be a full average yield in this county. Now the probability is, that, were we fully acquainted with the principles of chemistry, geology, vegetable physiology, and other branches of science that relate to, or have some connection with agriculture, so as to adopt a proper system of rotation, and give to every crop *only* those manures or substances necessary for its full development, reserving those not necessary for other crops of a different nature, we might increase them all in at least a two-fold proportion, which you will readily admit would be as great a 'change' as any that has been going on in the public mind within the last year or two. Not only so, but while making these improvements in our agricultural operations, we should be very likely to make corresponding improvements in our buildings, our orchards, our gardens &c., converting our country into a second Eden, a real *Paradise*, if we were equally careful at the same time, that the improvement in our *minds and manners* should keep pace with our other improvements.

But as our book and anti-book farmers are all this time waiting to be at work, let us give them farms of the same quality side by side, and watch their operations awhile. B. being a chemist, and acquainted with the elementary principles that constitute the different crops he wishes to cultivate, and knowing that no organic body can be formed in perfection without a due proportion of all the constituent principles that enter into its composition, he thinks a careful analysis of the soil of his farm is necessary before he can go to work understandingly and economically. Perhaps he finds it sufficiently supplied with all the organic and inorganic substances necessary to produce 35 or 40 bushels of wheat to the acre, except phosphate of lime, silicate of potash, or some other material of which it requires but an exceedingly small quantity, and yet *without* which he knows that he could no more obtain a good crop of wheat than he could make soap without oil, or egg shells without lime. Now suppose the soil is so deficient in phosphate of lime as to be incapable of producing more than ten or fifteen bushels of wheat to the acre—instead of incurring much trouble and expense in giving the land a heavy coating of manure that might add but little if anything more than such materials as were already in the soil, he knows that about fifteen pounds of old bones dissolved in a little diluted sulphuric acid, (and that he might find in some corner of his neighbor's fields, left there by a valuable horse or cow that had died of the botts, or murrain, or some other disorder, because its owner had not read in some agricultural paper how he might have prevented or



measured the disease,) would furnish all that is lacking so far as the soil is concerned, to produce 40 bushels to the acre. Will any man of observation at the present time, pretend to say that it is impossible for fifteen pounds of bone dust, or any other substance, to increase a crop from fifteen to forty bushels to the acre? Which of us have not had ocular demonstration that from a peck to half a bushel of gypsum will add at least a ton of clover hay to the acre? And it appears, (if I remember right,) by experiments recently made in France, that one quart of sulphuric acid, diluted in a large quantity of water, and sprinkled over an acre, has produced as great an effect. Nor is this at all strange when we understand that all plants "require certain salts for the sustenance of their vital functions, the acids of which salts either exist in the soil, (such as the silicic, phosphoric or sulphuric acids,) or are generated from nutriment derived from the atmosphere; thence if these salts are not contained in the soil, or if the bases necessary for their production be absent, they cannot be formed, or in other words, plants cannot grow in such a soil—and as different plants require different salts, and in different quantities, "the aptitude of a soil to produce one, but not another kind of plant, is due to the presence of a base which the former requires, and the absence of that, indispensable for the development of the latter;" therefore it is evident that upon the correct knowledge of the bases and salts requisite for the sustenance of each plant, and of the composition of the soil upon which it is grown, depends the whole system of a rational theory of agriculture. By understanding these, then, our thorough-bred scientific book farmer, with the least possible expense, may go on as Lavoisier did, increasing the products of his farm, orchard, or garden, until they are double or treble those of his anti-book farming neighbor, who we will suppose is a good, industrious thorough-going "practical farmer," knowing well how to plow and sow, harrow and hoe, reap and mow, and perform all the manual operations relating to his occupation, well; and having come, perhaps, from a part of the country where he has seen great effects produced by the application of lime, finding his land does not produce well, and not possessing that scientific or "book knowledge" that would discover to him that his land is already sufficiently supplied with it, he goes to much expense in giving a coating of that material, and to his surprise finds it produces but very little if any good effect—or perhaps he has seen very beneficial results from the use of lime, and applies a coating with like success, because the salts of potash were already in the soil in sufficient quantity.

Thus, then, may he toil on with wealth already at his hand, only that he does not, like his scientific neighbor, know how to hold of it.

As two such farmers once I knew,  
Could I but fairly bring to view  
Why one had very good success  
In raising crops, the other less:  
You'd see, perhaps, with some surprise,  
Why "one was foolish," one was wise.  
A trifling difference I could see,  
Which made the reason plain to me:  
One laughed at scientific men,  
Who labor only with the pen,  
Pretending that they understand  
How working men should till the land,  
And how they might improve the soil  
With surer hope, and less of toil,  
By help of analytic art,  
To show them each constituent part,  
That forms the land and the grain,  
That springs from out the fertile plain,  
And where there might be barren ground,  
The lacking element be found,  
And thus with scientific skill,  
Their lengthened barns and granaries fill.  
The other, deeming wisdom's part  
Would be, to give to every art  
Relating to his avocation,  
A little time and observation;  
That thus he might perhaps discover  
That all improvement was not over;  
And having early learned to read,  
Within his mind at once decreed,  
He'd hand some money to a friend,  
And for a farmer's paper send,  
And read its pages o'er with care,  
To see if ought presented there,  
Might to his benefit accrue.  
And now, what I would ask of you,  
Is just to come along with me  
To these two neighboring farms and see  
A working man, with pains and labor  
Much greater than his book-learn'd neighbor.  
Possessing, too, as good a soil,  
Get far less produce for his toil,  
Merely because he does not know  
That not a plant on earth can grow,  
To form a crop both large and good,  
Without its own appropriate food,—  
That never yet a plant was made,  
By all the help of hoe and spade,  
(So Nature's author did provide,)—  
Unless its growth were well supplied  
Both from the earth and from the air,  
By help of man, or Nature's care,  
With every element we find  
In every plant "after its kind,"  
If then a farmer still "would thrive,"  
Not only must he "hold or drive,"  
But wisely study Nature's laws,  
And learn the "wherefore and because."

I had no thought of running into such a "doggeral strain" as this. It came a little like the boy's whistling that "didn't whistle—it whistled itself." But as variety is said to be "the spice of life," I thought I would not suppress it. It may serve to "please the boys," and may possibly catch some vacant corner in their minds in which to plant a new idea.

#### Sugar Making.

The following directions for making Maple Sugar, we take from the last Report of the Commissioner of Patents:

It is but a few years since the highest reach of art in this manufacture produced only a fine muscovado-like sugar, and now by the improved processes, specimens are annually exhibited at the agricultural fairs, vying with the most beautiful loaf sugar. This has been affected by the greater attention to cleanliness in the preparation of the sap, and the improvements in the methods of graining and refining the sugar.

Different methods have heretofore been

given as employed by individuals to whom premiums have been awarded for the best manufactured maple sugar. We subjoin one of the most recent, furnished by S. Tinker, of Richland, Oswego county, New York, to whom was given the premium of the county society, September last.

The sap is boiled in a potash and cauldron kettle, to a thick syrup—strain it when warm—let it stand twenty-four hours to settle, then pour it off, heaving back all that is impure.

To clarify fifty pounds, take one quart of milk, one ounce of saleratus, and the whites of two eggs, well mixed; boil it again until hard enough to lay upon a saucer, then let it stand in the kettle and cool. Stir it very little to keep it from caking in the kettle.

For draining, use a tube, tunnel-shaped, say fifteen inches square at the top, and coming to a point at the bottom.

Put in your sugar when cold, tap it at the bottom, and keep a flannel cloth damp on the top, two or three thicknesses.

When drained, dissolve the sugar in pure warm water, and clarify and drain as before.

#### Sugar Making.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MR. ISHAM: We hope our farmers are making preparations for a vigorous improvement of the sugar season, which, from present appearances, we think, will be a favorable one. We hope those who are so fortunate as to possess sugar groves, will improve them so as to have a supply of the home maple luxury, not only for themselves, but for those also who have not the privilege of owning farms that have sugar trees on them. We wish the people of Michigan to stand on their native dignity and independence of character, and banish from their tables the foreign article, steeped as it is, in the sweat, and tears, and blood, too, of unpaid labor. They who are so happy as to "eat the labor of their own hands," may well have sympathy and compassion for those whose toil, exacted by the lash of the taskmaster, goes only to swell the pride of those who regard alike, with arrogant disdain, the free white laborer of the north, and the colored laborer of his own plantation, reduced by his own hand to the condition of a brute. These thoughts deserve the consideration of every high-minded and intelligent citizen of the north, and especially of those who ought to give tone and energy to public sentiment.—the farmers.

R.

If you are too needy to give to the poor, do whatever else lies in your power for them cheerfully.

### The Soil.

*From Prof. Norton's address at the Buffalo Fair.*

Farmers may learn to make some simple and useful testings, may determine some of the leading ingredients of the soil, or make mechanical analyses by finding the proportions of sand and clay; beyond this, few will have inclination or ability to go. Nor do I think it in most cases necessary to go farther. A general knowledge of the constituents of a soil in any district, is in ordinary experience quite sufficient. Should difficulties occur inexplicable by common rules, a thorough analysis ought to be made by some really competent person.

The farmers of New York are fortunate in finding this general knowledge of their soils within their reach. The extended and persevering researches of Professor Emmons, lately laid before the public, have accomplished this great end for many of the leading districts and formations. The farmer in this state can henceforth always obtain an approximation to the leading constituents of his soil, quite near enough to classify it, and to point out in many cases, the most eligible mode of experiment. The industry and zeal of Professor Emmons and his assistant must have been unwearied, to have accumulated such a mass of useful results and facts, in so short a time.

I have called attention to certain substances, as necessary to a fertile soil, but have not particularly designated among them a name which is at the top of the first column of the table, "organic matter." This name does not refer to a single substance, but to a class; all of the other names in the column are included in another class, "inorganic matter." These names were given as most fitly describing the grand distinction between two great classes of bodies.

Organic matter—is either living defined organs, or something that may be considered a product of such organs. When exposed to heat, the organic part burns and disappears, thus showing that the solid substance burned had originally been nothing but air. To form these organic bodies from the different kinds of air or gas, requires the action of living organs. Inorganic substances are also present in the plant, and in the animal, but they were not formed in the plant, merely drawn in by it from the soil. When the plant or the soil is heated, the organic part is that which burns, being reconverted to its elementary form; the inorganic part, being incombustible and not volatile, remains in the form of ash.

The organic matter of the soil is derived from the death and decay of plants and animals. When in the form of vegetable mould, its presence seems to exercise a remarkably beneficial influence on all of our cultivated crops. It would occupy too much of your time, were I to enter upon the contested theories as to the manner in which this organic matter acts so decidedly. Leaving these aside, it is sufficient to

say that it is a necessary portion of every fertile soil. In all ordinary cases, the organic constituents of a soil decompose slowly; a part goes to the sustenance of plants, and part being evaporated disappears entirely. These changes proceed most regularly in the presence of a sufficient degree of moisture, air, and warmth. If the quantity of water in the soil, however, be large and remains there permanently, its effect becomes quite injurious rather than beneficial. In the first place air and warmth are in a great degree excluded; then the process of decomposition is arrested, and various acid vegetable substances begin to accumulate. If water still stands and stagnates, the soil becomes so unfavorable to the cultivated crops that they do not succeed, and the artificial valuable grasses, are gradually replaced by swamp grasses or rushes. The water now becomes dark colored, owing to its holding in solution a small quantity of these vegetable acids. In tropical climates the heat is so great that vegetable matter decomposes even when immersed in water, and consequently there is no entire arrest of decomposition: in temperate regions there is a gradual accumulation, and after we pass a certain degree of latitude this accumulation is very rapid. From such causes result the peat bogs and morasses of all northern climates. When once commenced, these have a peculiar growth of their own, and increase from year to year until at last they sometimes reach the thickness of twenty or thirty feet. Now it is to be observed, that the elements in these quaking hopelessly barren swamps, are the same as those which exist in the most fertile soils; the difficulty is that they are here as it were locked up, so as to be worse than useless to any valuable plant.

The remedy for this state of things is simple; a few drains of tiles or small stones placed at proper distances, and cut to a proper depth, will be found an infallible specific. The superfluous water is carried away, and as it retires from the surface; air and warmth follow; then the work of decomposition commences, and after a time a soil of uncommon fertility is obtained.

But the evil effect of much water upon the soil, is seen not in bogs and swamps alone, but also in a great number of our cultivated fields. In such places water is not present to the extent before described; the soil may be even perfectly firm and dry at midsummer, but still there is so much water during autumn and spring that neither grass nor cultivated crops succeed well. The action here, is so far as it goes, similar to that already mentioned. A quantity of vegetable acids is formed, owing to the imperfect access of air, sufficient to check, if not to entirely arrest the growth of crops. The farmers ordinarily call such land cold and sour, and by so doing they express exactly its properties. A practised eye will soon detect these wet fields, or the wet spots caused by concealed springs on land otherwise dry. A few rushes, or some

coarse wiry grass, will always betray the secret. Here too, the only remedy lies in the drain. Its ameliorating influence is more quickly felt on this cold sour land than in swamps, because the evil has not proceeded so far. I am scarcely acquainted with a farm in my own part of the country, which has not some land upon it that needs draining. In nearly every section of New England, I believe that a farmer without some wet places on it, would be an exception to a general rule.

The mischief caused by too much water is not confined to the organic part alone but extends to the various inorganic substances that I have mentioned; they too undergo various changes in the soil which fit them the more readily to serve as food for plants, insoluble combinations gradually becoming soluble. These changes are arrested almost entirely in presence of standing water, and in some cases positively injurious compounds are formed.

Draining thus becomes on many soils the necessary foundation of all permanent advantage, and must be considered as one of the most important operations connected with improved cultivation.

### Agricultural Discussions.

A meeting of gentlemen of the Legislature of New York, and other citizens interested in the prosperity of the cause of agriculture, was held, pursuant to notice, in the Rooms of the State Agricultural Society, in Albany, Jan. 4th, 1849.

Mr. Johnson, (the Secretary of the State Society,) stated, that the Transactions of their society are now eagerly looked for in our country and abroad—sought after everywhere. They are more enquired for than any other work relating to agriculture, except it may be some of the leading periodicals. He had received orders for them from every part of this country, and they were sent into England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Austria, Russia, and all over the Continent. Farmers begin to find out that they are known out of their locality.

What pursuit, Mr. Chairman, (said Mr. J.) is it in America, that has no school for its advancement—and that too, the most important than all others? Why have farmers thus neglected themselves? They have appropriated nearly half a million of dollars to the Geological Survey and Natural History. If it goes no further, why has the appropriation been made? We see the rocks—shall we not see the soil also? else why has this amount of money been expended? Large as the appropriation has been, it is cheap, indeed, it leads to a thorough examination of the virtues and qualities and properties and riches of the soil.—Why should not all be done? Why should not we carry out the suggestions of the Governor?

Mr. J. then referred incidentally to the improved state of agriculture abroad. He wished he could hear from his friend Mr. Slocum, in relation to this subject, whose means of information had been so extensive.



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He (Mr. J.) had seen with intense interest the extraordinary results produced by the close attention and accuracy of English cultivation. Why should not New York State in all its wheat districts, produce its forty and fifty bushels to the acre? England has no better land—no better sun—no better? their sun is but a stranger to their soil, compared to its influences here.

But the secret is, they adapt their agriculture to their soil—they analyze the soil—men of science are found by the side of the farmer, and he reaps the benefit of their labors. They point to the path which the practical farmer pursues. They do not think that they are rich enough to do without these advantages.

Mr. J. then alluded to the great good that had resulted to the American farmer from the accuracy in relation to the measurement and return of the crops, which the society had in latter years insisted upon. It led him to watch closely the details of his farming. Many of the counties had in their local society operations, attained a degree of accuracy so complete, as that one set of papers would answer both for the State Society and for them; while others were yet lamentably loose and deficient. A gentleman in Massachusetts had offered the use of his farm to any one who would raise sixty bushels of corn to the acre; he doubting that it could be grown. One of our farmers had produced the most authentic proofs of having raised 123½ bushels to the acre. In Jefferson county 110 bushels of oats to the acre had been raised the past season, of 41 lbs. to the measured bushel. In Oneida county, one field of about ten acres, had yielded 112½ bushels of oats to the acre over the entire field, some years since, samples of which are to be seen at the Patent Office, at Washington. Sir, said Mr. J., if the proper knowledge of culture were universally made known and learned, would our farmers be content with raising twenty bushels of corn to the acre? Other results would be produced, and our country in its agriculture be in the rear of no other on the earth.

The following subjects for discussion at the weekly meetings have been agreed upon by the committee, to be taken up in the order named:—Relative advantage of this and other countries in supplying the European and other Markets with Grain and provisions. Wheat and its culture, Draining. Grasses—their Cultivation—Varieties best adapted to our climate for various purposes. Fattening Cattle and Swine. Indian Corn and its culture. Culture of Green Crops.

**The Horse's Eye.**—I will now inform you how, for certain, you may know whether a horse has a strong and good eye, or a weak eye, and likely to go blind. People in general turn a horse's head to a bright light to examine his eyes. You can know very little, by this method, what sort of an eye the horse has, unless it be a very de-

fective one. You must examine the eye first, when the horse stands with his head to the manger. Look carefully at the pupil of the eye, in the horse; it is of an oblong form; carry the size of the pupil in your mind, then turn the horse about, bring him to a bright light, and if, in the bright light, the pupil of the eye contracts, and appears much smaller than it was in the darker light, then you may be sure the horse has a strong, good eye; but provided the pupil remains nearly of the same size as it appeared in the darker light, the horse has a weak eye; therefore have nothing to do with him.

From the Boston Cultivator.

### Berkshire Hogs.

**Messrs. Editors:** At the first meeting at the Statehouse for agricultural discussion, the subject turned, chiefly, on the different breeds of hogs; a member observing, that with him it was a question whether much good is derived from importations. In this view I concur, for, do the best we can, and the most cautiously, we find that the distinctive character and quality of the hog runs out sooner than that of any other animal—man not excepted. The remarks of the same gentleman, on the difference, often observable in the various breeds of hogs, on the cooking of the meat, were interesting, and much to the purpose, showing that the fat of the Berkshire would trend out more than that of other breeds; leaving less scrap—a convincing proof of its inferiority for any purpose, except that of turning into lard. But, may not much of this inferiority be traced to the peculiarity of formation? All barrel-shaped animals, in all probability, being found to shrink in cooking, from the lightness and insolidity of the offal, or belly, which, in the improved Berkshire hog, is found to be "thin and flabby." A particular friend, who had gone deeply into the Berkshire breed, and cleared in one year \$300 by the sale of pigs, informed me he held on to them until his wife complained of being out of lard!

A member advocated the cause of the Berkshires, remarking, however, they had been too highly extolled, (these ought to have been styled *improved* Berkshires, the old Berkshires of England have never lost caste, and observed, that they produced a larger proportion of muscle, or lean, than other breeds; but, under favor, this is not the fact; a slab-sided animal, giving a larger quantity of lean meat in cutting up; the belly measuring in thickness nearly as much as the back, affording so large a quantity of streaky bacon. From the day of the introduction of this breed until the present, the butchers have acknowledged the difficulty of judging the weight of the Berkshire hogs, as they prove, uniformly, lighter at the scale than they had been estimated; while a slab-sided animal is sure to give more and overrun their calculations. Mention was made of the Hampshire breed; I beg to say, the *fac simile* of the legitimate Hampshire hog is the present Chester-Co.

breed of the Middle States, with its deep and ponderous sides, and Dr. Martin's "cellular texture of meat," which has the character of growing half in the pot. These hogs, although they might be made to reach the dead weight of a thousand pounds, are fit for the butcher during any period of life, even from childhood; the fat being distributed amongst the lean, and not confined solely to the back.

A member accorded to Mr. Bement, of Albany, the honor of having first introduced the Berkshire breed of hogs to notice in this country. This is incorrect. Mr. Bement purchased the importation of Hawes, and is conspicuous as having disseminated the breed, at a profit of \$3,000 a year, until the game was up, when he let them fall, substituting a white variety, of nearly opposite points of character, as antipodes it is presumed, to the *improved* black Berkshires; from which circumstance I am led to question if he could now be prevailed upon to say as much in their favor as those who have never made a dollar by the *mania*. That the Berkshire hog has been of much service in the improvement of our native breeds, is readily admitted; but such a cross—many times superior to the improved Berkshire, although no longer sporting three white feet and a white tip to the tail—must not be termed Berkshires. The fact is, the breed is gone dead. M. W.

From the Boston Cultivator.

### Draining.

**Messrs. Editors:** In Mr. Shurtleff's valuable article on Draining, Cultivator for January 13th, it is said, "some farmers have no stone or gravel on their premises; in such cases the ditches must be left open." Now, I beg to say, I have before me meadows that have been most effectually drained by covered ditches, without the use of stone, gravel or tiles; and yet the drains run perfectly clear, and have done so for many years, with no danger whatever of their not continuing so to do for an age to come. These were filled to the proper height with bushes, carefully selected and placed side by side and bound into faggots, say a foot or more in diameter, and twelve feet or more in length, by a withe band at every five feet; and upon them were laid tough sods, with the herbage downwards; after which the drains were filled with the opening soil. I would deprecate the use of open ditches, especially in draining boggy land, requiring the drains to be cut very close together, when closed drains can be so conveniently obtained and cheaply formed. These drains could be cut with shoulders, at the height to which the faggots would extend upwards, and upon these the tough sods, cut wide enough to span them, might be made to rest, so as to resist all downward pressure, and do away all fear, or even the possibility of stoppage. S.

A state of ease is at best but a neutral state of being; alike distant from positive happiness as from positive misery.

**HORTICULTURAL.**

J. C. HOLMES, EDITOR OF THIS DEPARTMENT

**To Horticulturists.**

We are anxious to secure a long list of Horticultural correspondents for the Michigan Farmer. We therefore invite, all who feel an interest in this department, to give us through the columns of this paper, the benefit of their experience, in whatever relates to horticulture.

We wish to know who are the Horticulturists of this region; and what they are doing for the advancement of the cause.

In what better way can they be brought out; or in what way do more good, than by an occasional communication for the Farmer. We wish to know of your experiments, whether successful or otherwise. If successful, and of value, let all have the benefit of them. If failures, let us know of them, that others may not fall into the same errors.

**Shade Trees.**

"Woodman, spare that tree." The thought has often occurred to us, when passing along some of the roads in the country, where the forest trees have been chopped entirely away, and not a single specimen left, to tell the tale of the former grandeur of the old woods, why is it, when a man is clearing up his lot, that he does not direct his choppers, to spare a few of the noble oaks, sycamores, liriodendrons, elms, or the beautiful maples, that grow along the front line of his farm.

When the farm is cleared, if a few of the best trees have been left standing, the owner finds, that they greatly enhance the value of his farm. They are not only highly ornamental, but they afford shelter to his family, from the scorching rays of a summer's sun. The traveller also, as he plods his weary way along our straight and toilsome roads, seeks their shelter with a feeling of gratitude towards the generous farmer, who permitted these old settlers to remain, for the benefit of the public. Then we say, woodman spare a few of the hand-somest trees along the line of the road, for shade and ornament, for public as well as private benefit. To be sure, there is now a dense forest around you, and you wish to make all possible haste in clearing off the wood, and letting the sun in upon the soil, that has not felt its influence, perhaps for centuries. But this will not always be so. A few years hence, when your neighbors have gone through with the same process, and for hundreds of acres around, not

one of those fine old forest trees is to be seen, you will wonder why you did not, when clearing, save a few shade trees.

The librarian of the Detroit Horticultural Society, wishes to purchase for the use of the Society, the 1st, 2d, and 3d volumes of the Michigan Farmer. Any person having either of these volumes in his possession, and being willing to part with them, will please notify J. C. Holmes at Detroit.

**New York State Agricultural Society.**

At the annual meeting of this Society held at Albany, January 17th, three members from each Judicial District, were appointed a committee of nomination for officers of the society, and to recommend the next place of holding the Annual Fair.

This committee, in their report, recommend to the executive committee, the city of Syracuse as the location of the next fair, provided security be given to the satisfaction of the executive committee, that the local expenses of the fair be discharged by the citizens of Syracuse, the sum not exceeding \$3,500.

In the secretary's report of the exhibition of fruits at this meeting, we notice that J. C. Holmes of Detroit, forwarded from A. C. Hubbard, Troy, 15 varieties, and from Judge Barker, of Plymouth, Michigan, 8 varieties.

The thanks of the society were tendered to each of the contributors, and the secretary was directed to forward to each, the Diploma of the society.

For the Michigan Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you allow me a little space in the Farmer in which to attempt a reply by way of explanation in part to a communication by A. C. H. in the last number of the Farmer which seems to have been called forth by some of your notes by the way. And here it may be well to remark concerning what was said relative to the superior growth or thriftiness of a tree from a bud over that from a graft. It was intended to say that in a tree or shoot from a bud the tendency to grow straight or upright, seemed much greater than in one from the graft.

But to the article in question. Mr. A. C. H. says, "that my experience shows that trees raised from buds are also liable to crack open &c." But mark, he does not say that trees raised from buds are as liable to crack as those raised from grafting in

roots, nor does he tell you where the buds were inserted or where the cracks were in the case of which he speaks. It is presumed, however, that the cracks were mostly on the cultivated parts, and that too just above the junction, at least such has been the experience here thus far: now it is neither contended or believed, that a tree from the bud is any hardier or less liable to crack than one from the graft, provided the bud and graft are inserted at or very near the same place in each. This cracking of the bark, so far as it has been observed here on trees grafted in the root, in nearly every instance, commenced at or very near the earth's surface, thence extending up from two to four or six inches, and in some few instances as high as eight or ten. In root grafting the insertion is in all cases made at or below the surface, consequently the entire trunk will be of the cultivated kind, whereas buds are almost a matter of course inserted at least a foot and usually much more than that above the surface. Hence it follows of course, that on trees thus raised from buds, that part of the trunk which it would seem is most liable to crack, would be neither from the bud or graft, but a seedling which it is believed is, almost by common consent, considered preferable to the great mass of the cultivated varieties. That the bark of seedlings does occasionally burst open, is not denied, and that the bark of the cultivated sorts does sometimes crack one, two, and even three feet from the surface is, not questioned, but that they, in either case, do so to anything like as great an extent as where the entire trunk is of the cultivated kind, we have yet to learn.

Probably A. C. H. has given the true cause of most if not all this cracking. As to the "supposition that fruit from a cultivated tree partakes of the qualities of the original stock," we can only say, that while we have not yet witnessed anything which seems calculated to induce or favor such a belief, we think we have seen much that goes to prove the contrary.

Respectfully yours,

DANIEL COOK.

We are exceedingly gratified in being able to state that our friend Gibbons, of Raisin, together with some of his neighbors, have organized the LeNawee County Agricultural and Horticultural Society. It is now in full blast, with Mr. G. at its head. He probably found it as we told him—that it needed but a master spirit to start it.



Cleveland, Jan. 20, 1849.

J. C. HOLMES, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* It is with pleasure I notice you have undertaken the charge of an exclusive Horticultural Department in the Michigan Farmer, for however well qualified may be the general Editor of that paper, he cannot devote as much attention to the fruit department and maintain his other duties, as is requisite.

It is but a few years since any attention has been given throughout the Western States in collecting information respecting the names and adaptedness of fruits in the different sections. Such, however, is now the attention paid to the subject, that a farmer without an orchard is considered a bad manager; as much so as five years back he would have been without a corn or wheat crop. Fruit is found of value for the uses of a family, in comparison, equal to any other produce of a farm. As food for cattle and hogs, apples have been found exceedingly valuable, and these being justly and universally estimated, there now remains only in the mind of a planter, the question—what varieties are best suited to my uses, and my soil? Such a question would seem to be easily answered, and yet I believe it has been found difficult to furnish a satisfactory list, adapted to the wants of all.

The numerous errors in the names of fruits have done much to retard the progress or introduction of new and valuable varieties. But such is the attention now, to the matter, that cultivators in Ohio, and I hope in Michigan, are as desirous of knowing the true fruit, and true name, as they are the true name and kind of wheat which they may cultivate.

The holding of State Fruit Conventions has done much toward aiding in correction of names, and disseminating information upon the subject, in Ohio. The example, I hope, may be followed by your State; and allow me here to suggest your issuing a call for a State Fruit Convention, to be held at the most central point in your State, at such a time next fall as will admit of delegates from that convention attending upon the Ohio State Convention, and then on with their fruits to the North American Pomological Convention. By such a procedure, your delegates would have an opportunity of comparing your State fruits with ours, and at the same time give us an insight into what you can grow to advantage, and then on, jointly to the east, to compare notes.

This would tend eventually to bring about a grand convention of western fruit growers, and such I hope to see within three years from this date.

The Ohio Fruit Report will be forwarded you, and if, on examination, you think as I do, that it will be of interest to the fruit growers in Michigan, allow the information of where and at what price copies can be obtained, viz: six copies for one dollar, sent to M. B. Bateham, Columbus, Ohio.

The Committee of the North American Pomological Convention have issued their Circular to State Committees. It is to be hoped each gentleman so appointed will endeavor to do his part. These Conventions, by yearly throwing out varieties of fruit from cultivation, will gradually reduce the list to that condition termed healthy, and not to one of apparent dropsy, as at present. Or, rather, they will, in a few years, afford us lists of choice varieties, to be depended upon, and adapted to every section of the United States.

Very respectfully,

F. R. ELLIOTT.

#### Horticulture in England.

*Extract of a letter from Mr. Barry of Rochester, N. Y. to a friend, dated, LONDON, Dec. 18th, 1848.*

Large quantities of American apples have been brought into Liverpool recently, but the most of them have been of indifferent quality, and badly gathered and picked, and hence, they do not command high prices, nor do us any credit,—nor can the shippers gain by the operation. There is an unfailing market here for our orchard products, but to make the shipment of them profitable, it is absolutely necessary that select varieties be sent, that they be carefully hand-picked and packed in the best manner. One barrel will then sell for as much as 3 or 4; and the freights, which is the great item, will be no more on a barrel that will sell more readily for \$5, than one that will bring only \$2. Many of the apples I see here cried up as "nice American apples," "beautiful American apples," &c., would scarcely sell at all in our market, yet they are sold here at 3 to 6c. each.

The English people have fairly given up growing apples for market, unless it be Codlins, &c., that come in early for cooking and *Beaufins*, &c. for drying. They see it will be impossible for them to compete with American orchardists. Yesterday I examined two or three hundred varieties in the fruit rooms of the London Horticultural Society, and among them all there was not a single large, clear colored, fine looking specimen. One would suppose, at first sight, that they were all wind-falls, gathered from under the trees last August. The *Roxbury Russet*, *Fall Pippin*, and *Rhode Island Greening*, were among the

best specimens, and they were not half the size we grow them. The most esteemed varieties pointed out to me by Mr. Thompson, such as *Pearson's Plate*, *Warmsley Pippin*, *Pomme Royal*, (not our *Pomme Royal*), *Golden Harvey*, *Sturmer Pippin*, &c., are small inferior looking things,—in size from that of a small *Pomme Gris*, to that of a *Siberia Crab*,—but they are generally harder and richer than ours. The *Newtown Pippin* and *Roxbury Russet* come nearer the English taste than any other varieties we cultivate. I had some Northern Spy and Melon with me, that I have here now in London in fine condition. They have elicited the admiration of all who have seen them. There are indeed no such apples to-day in England. The Northern Spy may be sent to Covent Garden market, just as well as to Fulton or Washington markets, New York. The pears in the markets here now are from France or the Island of Jersey. They come in half-bushel baskets, containing 50 to 100, according to the size of fruit. They are packed in very dry soft meadow hay—a layer of this hay 2 or 3 inches deep is laid on the bottom, then a layer of fruit, then another of hay, and so on to the top,—the fruits are not allowed to touch, in this way they go any distance with entire safety. I saw at Liverpool little baskets of *Glout Merceau* and *Chau-montel*, 50 in each, sold for \$3 to \$4 each, to the Confectioners and market-women to retail.

In Covent Garden Market, which is head quarters for all rare and fine garden commodities, I see fine *St. Germain's*, (the old one), *Marie Louise*, *Passe Colmar*, *Winter Nelis*, *Beurre Rance*, *Easter Beurre*, &c., sold at 12½ to 18½ cents each. If we ever succeed in raising pears beyond what may be required for home consumption, they will find market and good prices here. Not one person in a thousand, I might say five thousand, ever taste a fine pear. There is also a fair supply of new potatoes from Holland, sold at about twenty-five cents per quart. There is plenty of Asparagus, Brussels Sprouts, Rhubarb, Mushrooms, and all other vegetable luxuries. The Flower Market is very rich. Bouquets are made up very tastefully by women who buy the flowers from the Florists and make a business of preparing and selling the bouquets. You can have a nosegay for a penny—a single rose and a leaf. For a shilling (25 cents) you can have a pretty Bouquet of Roses, Primroses, Heliotropes, Ascleas, &c. Go higher, and you get Camillias, Heaths, Epacris, &c.—higher still, and you get Orange Flowers, Cape Jassimines, Cyclamens and Euphorbias; and if you offer half a guinea (\$2 50) you get a gem of beauty, combining all these, arranged with exquisite taste. So much for fruits and flowers, and I find that I must close on that head.

Success is a constant motive to activity; every stroke of your hoe is a step forward

## MICHIGAN FARMER.

WARREN J. SHAM, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

Terms, \$1 in advance—five copies for \$4.

**W**e again caution our subscribers against paying their subscriptions to P. N. Girardin, as he is not now an authorised agent of this paper.

**W**e do not like to be importunate, but really we fear that some of our friends have forgotten to execute their good resolutions. If any suppose that nothing more is necessary to be done in the way of procuring names, they are greatly mistaken. We tender our thanks to those of our friends who have kindly interested themselves in the matter, but we beg leave to say, that while our subscription list has received considerable accessions, they are far from being sufficient to justify the outlay we have been at.

**Butter—a Nice Present.**

We have received from Mrs. Rofe of Ecorse, a very beautiful specimen of her winter butter—beautiful enough and good enough to satisfy the most fastidious amateur.

It occurs to us, that Mrs. R. might furnish some useful hints on butter making, for the readers of the Farmer. And it is a subject in which we are all deeply interested. What indeed can *more* deeply interest us as sentient beings, than the question, whether we are to have good or bad butter set before us three times a day, or one thousand and ninety-five times a year. Certainly this is a question of grave import—and a question which is to be settled for us by the good housewives of the country, and it shall not be our fault, if it is not settled in a manner satisfactory to all parties.

And why should it not be so settled? What hinders? A very little pains taking will give us a good article in place of a bad one. All that is necessary to so desirable an end, is a due regard to cleanliness, and proper care in thoroughly separating the butter-milk. Let the pans and pails be thoroughly scalded after being used, the cows teats and udder be kept clean, by washing if necessary, and the milk and cream be kept in a clean place, the churning be done before the cream has become sour, and the butter properly worked, salted and packed, and, with no other extras, we have no fears but we should have, to say the least, a very palatable article. To

impart the highest flavor to butter, some other things may be servicable. But we ask not for that. Give us butter that cannot be drawn into ropes, like wax, and that is not more nauseating than Dover's powders, and we will be satisfied.

**Education—what is it? Why we have so many Pigmies in Intellect.**

There is a volume of truth in a remark which was dropped in a discourse on education, by the Rev. Mr. Newberry, of Jackson, to which we recently had the pleasure of listening, viz: that "the human mind is so constituted, that it can grow only by its own action." And the inference deduced from this great foundation truth was, that every one who was educated at all, must from the necessity of the case, for the most part, be *self educated*, as he alone could control the action of his own mind.

And what can be more obvious? It is not less true of the mind, than of the body that it will become imbecile by inaction. Subject a limb of the body, an arm for instance, to inaction for a single year, and it will be reduced to infantile weakness. Whether the story of Caspar Hauser were true in point of fact or not, true to nature it certainly was. Any human being subjected from infancy to the inaction to which he is represented as having been subjected, would have been a Caspar Hauser, both physically and intellectually. And all men, everywhere, are both physically and intellectually, and we may add, morally, just what they have made themselves by the active discipline to which they have subjected themselves. How puny for instance in muscular strength, is the man who dooms himself to the inactivity of the study in comparison with the man whose brawny arm has been trained to the labors of the anvil.

In like manner the powers of the intellect are developed by action or dwarfed by inaction. And this is the main reason of the vast difference which we every where behold in the degrees of intelligence which characterize mankind. Here, for instance, is a man who never thinks, and what is there of him? Just as much as there was ten or twenty years ago, and that is all. How he has managed to live so long as a mere animal, surrounded as he has been with objects calculated to awaken thought, and call into vigorous exercise all the faculties of the mind, we are at a loss to conceive. But so it is, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, he has steadily and perseveringly

resisted all temptation to think, and but for his upright form, you would scarcely know, that he belonged to a race of intelligent beings. He can give no better reason for anything he does, than that so he was taught, and what is surprising is, that all his docility forsook him the moment he left the paternal roof. From that hour he could never be taught any more. His education was complete. You may "bray him in a mortar with a pestle, and his folly will not depart from him." "He is wiser than seven men that can render a reason." Such is the anti-book farmer.

Here is another, perhaps his next door neighbor, whose mind is schooled to constant action by the various objects which present themselves to his observation at every step, on the right hand and on the left, and by this action it has grown and expanded its powers, almost as visibly as the crops which he cultivates have matured themselves under the genial influences which have been brought to bear upon them. Look back over this man's history, and see what he was twenty years ago, a mere pigmy in intellect, compared with what he is now. And what constitutes the difference between this man and the other? Simply this, that he *thinks*. His mind has grown by its own action, while that of the other has been kept stationary by inaction.

**Sheep on Wet Lands.**

We stated, in an article on sheep husbandry, a number or two back, in proof that sheep pastures should not be wet, that an experiment had been made with a large flock of sheep on the wet prairie back of Chicago, which had resulted calamitously to the flock.

In relation to our statement the Prairie Farmer says, that "the largest flock of sheep ever put on the prairie, back of Chicago," was placed there by Mr. J. B. Turner, in the summer of 1844. The flock consisted of 3,500, which were driven from Ohio and Indiana. The loss the first season, was severe, not from any wetness of the prairie on which they were placed, but from the *driving* which was through the water and mud of the wettest season ever known in the west. Since then the flock has suffered no loss, but is in as fine condition as need be," &c.

We have only to say, that we derived our information from a man who lives on the prairie, and whom we regarded as good authority. No authority, however, is to be regarded as higher than that of the P. F.



**Wire Fences.**

Much has been said in some of the agricultural journals in praise of wire fence, as an economical substitute for rail fence in sections of country which are bare of timber, and some experiments have been made with it on the prairies west.

There are, however, objections to it in our mind, which we could never get over, its reputed cheapness notwithstanding. In the first place, its appearance, or rather want of appearance, would be a serious objection to it. Looking upon it only from a moderate distance, you see nothing but the naked posts, as though they had been set and the project abandoned—a disagreeable spectacle indeed. And the cattle seem to be of the same opinion, for the first they know they are brought up against it, with a most unceremonious rebuff. In their eyes, it must be, to say the least, a very insignificant affair, and so destitute of merit as not to be worth regarding, and ten to one, there will be a snapping among the wires, just about that time.

But this is not the only objection. It is not pretended, that the wires can be placed so near together as to stop hogs and other small animals, without bringing upon it the imputation of being a *cheap* instead of a *dear* fence, and it is bad economy to construct any kind of fence which would not present an effectual barrier to all kinds of stock.

To remedy some of these objections, we have noticed recently, that strips of sheet iron have been substituted for the wire, and being painted, they are rendered *visible*, as well as *enduring*. This strikes us as a great improvement, but still it would be impossible to place the strips so near together as to preclude the passage of small stock, without enhancing the cost to such extent as absolutely to rob it of the one peculiar merit which is claimed for it, *cheapness*.

After all, it may be possible, that upon the large prairies of the West, where nothing better can be had to make fence of without great expense, such a sort of anology for a fence may be tolerated as expedient. Under such circumstances deformed and odious features, would strike one so potently as in a section of country where such miserable shifts were necessary, and we are quite certain, that there is no section of our own state of Michigan, where there is any such necessity for the existence of such a fence must sup-

**Worse than the Cholera.**

From Maine to Oregon the California fever rages with great violence. Nay, it has found victims in the Islands of the seas, has crossed the broad Atlantic, and is extending its ravages over Great Britain, and on the continent of Europe, far more rapidly than the cholera, and we may add, with consequences scarcely less deplorable.

Does the cholera depopulate a country? So does the gold fever. Hundreds and thousands of our citizens, who but recently were seen in the full enjoyment of their rational faculties, and all the comforts of a peaceable home, are gone, and we shall see their faces no more, and thousands upon thousands of others will soon follow them, and that will be the end of them. Multitudes of them will sink down under the hardships, privations and exposures of the way, and other multitudes will arrive at their destination only to lie down and die in a strange land.

And then what an unsettling of the elements of good order, and breaking up of the very foundations of society! Those habits of industry, economy and devotion to some useful calling, which it has been the labor of a lifetime to acquire, and without which a man is little better than a vagabond, are all thrown to the winds in a moment, and he is set afloat upon a raging ocean, without pilot, helm, or compass.

Again, is the cholera choice in the selection of its victims? So is the gold fever. Can the class of persons, from among whom the cholera will strike down its victims, be pointed out with unerring precision? Just so with those who are seized with this mania. They might have been pointed out beforehand, nearly every man of them. The ardent, the restless and the desperate, "those who make haste to be rich and fall into divers temptations and a snare," these are the men who have the mark upon their foreheads, and had we known that the malady was approaching, all eyes would have been turned upon these men. It is true, that an occasional exception is to be met with, here and there a victim being selected from among the sober, the staid, and the calculating, and so it is with the cholera. Occasionally it strikes down those of regular habits, who seem the most secure from its attack.

Since 1832 the cholera has three times swept over the world, and since 1835 the gold mania has as many times, to a greater or less extent, devastated our fair land.

Who that witnessed its ravages in 1835,

'36, and '37, would ever wish to see them repeated. And yet before we had recovered from the dire effects of it, again we were visited by it in a somewhat less malignant form, and to a more limited extent, in 1846, when multitudes were drawn into the fatal vortex upon the shores of Lake Superior. And now again the terrible malady is down upon us with a malignity and to an extent which has no parallel in the annals of the past. Our whole country, from the Great Lakes, to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, is alive with excitement. In all our cities, companies are forming and preparations making for their earliest possible departure for California. And indeed scarcely is there a village of any considerable size in the land, in which companies are not forming for this object, and should the fever continue to rage, it would seem as though the whole country were in danger of being depopulated.

We would not care so much if we could keep the infection from getting among our farmers, the great conservators of the public weal, and in fact, the only hope of the country in emergencies of this sort. But we understand, to our surprise, that many of them have already fallen victims, and that many others exhibit alarming symptoms. Truly, these are perilous times for our country. We hope and trust, that those of our agricultural friends, who still remain uninfected, will guard themselves against the contagion by every possible precaution, and especially those who are constitutionally predisposed to be affected and carried off by it, and such there are in every community.

And then to suppose the best, and hope the best, that can possibly be supposed and hoped, even against hope, let it be admitted, that a fair proportion of these adventurers shall live to reach the place of their destination, and that life, health and strength shall be given them to dig and amass gold to their hearts' content—let us suppose and hope this, we say, if we can, without stopping to ballance the probabilities and improbabilities of the case, and how much better off will they be than if they had left their carcasses by the way? Who are the men that can withstand the deteriorating, the ruinous influence of so sudden a transition from poverty to wealth? Are there any such men, and if there be, do they go to California? Not they. They stay at home and mind their own business, content with the moderate gains

of an industrious and frugal life. Those who go there belong to quite another class. There is not a man of them all, but would be spoiled and made a nuisance of by the happening of any such contingency as that.

*Not a man*, did we say? But we forgot what we said above about exceptions. And yet we are not much inclined to take it back. It is a law of our nature, interwoven in the very texture of our being, that property is property about in proportion to the labor we have bestowed upon it: that is, a value is set upon it about in that proportion. It is another law of our being, equally inwrought in the very framework of the soul, that men are good citizens, about in proportion as they are industrious and devoted to some useful calling, and *vice versa*, that men become nuisances in society about in proportion as they are idle, and afloat from all useful occupation. And it is still another law of our degenerate nature, that a sudden influx of wealth puts an end to all useful employment, and sets the unhappy victim afloat upon a sea of unbridled passion, upon which he is tossed to and fro, until he is finally whelmed in the abyss. These are laws which operate as invariably as those which regulate the rising and setting sun, and woe to the man who ventures upon the fearful experiment. As well may he put forth his puny arm to turn back the planets in their courses—we had almost said, as to hope to escape the final catastrophe. Where is the individual from the beginning of the world down to the present time, who has run the hazzard and escaped? Where is he? Point to him if you can.

And as with individuals, so with nations. Where is the nation which has been brought within the operation of these laws, that has not been demoralized and ruined? Look at Spain, once proudly peering as the first power in Europe, and what is she now? A hissing and a by-word among the nations of the earth—a poor, weak, pitiful, bloated, carbuncled, cadaverous, debauched thing, an object of disgust, derision and contempt. And she is but a conspicuous one among the many instances which might be cited, of the sad realities involved in the operation of the laws above enumerated.

But let us figure a little before we stop, and see how these gold-hunters are coming out, for it is by no means certain, that they will, after all, be in the slightest danger of being brought within the operation of the

irreversible laws above enumerated. It is computed, that at least fifty thousand men will be employed at the mines the ensuing season; the probability is, that there will be double that number. But put the number at fifty thousand, and suppose the aggregate quantity of gold they shall be able to collect, to be twenty millions of dollars, which is just double the estimate of the government officers on the ground, and there would be just four hundred dollars to a man. But suppose we double the quantity which will be realized again, and call the aggregate forty millions of dollars, we should only have eight hundred dollars to a man—and double it again, making it eighty millions, and you give each man sixteen hundred dollars.

But no man would think it worth his while at all to venture upon the expedition with any thing less than ten thousand dollars a season fitting before his vision, and there are those who dream of hundreds of thousands. But admit that the lowest named sum which any man out of all who go to California, would be willing to take as his portion of the proceeds the first season, viz: ten thousand dollars, is a fair average of what will be realized by each man, and on the supposition, that there will be only *fifty thousand men* engaged in the business, the aggregate proceeds will amount to the round sum of five hundred millions of dollars. But who, that has the smallest modicum of that very useful commodity, common sense, can fail to perceive, that such an amazing increase of this metal must render it very common, and that its value must depreciate in proportion to its commonness? So that even on the most favorable supposition, the gains of these men must be small.

#### Gov. Slade's Lecture.

A lecture on education was delivered, on Sabbath evening last, in the Congregational church in this city by Governor Slade of Vermont. It is generally known, that Governor Slade, has for some two or three years, devoted himself to the cause of education in the West, being the agent of a society in Ohio, the object of which is to supply female teachers for the West. For two or three years he has been thus engaged, and he has been in labors abundant, in season and out of season. And it presents to us a spectacle of the moral sublime, the more to be admired, because so rare, in these degenerate days, to see a man of distinguished abilities, thus abandon-

ing the high road to political preferment, and devoting all his energies to this humble employment. Humble, did we say? In one sense, it is so, but in another it is far otherwise.

Too humble it may be to come in for any considerable share of this world's applause, and yet, we apprehend, that he is doing more for his country than many upon whose lips listening Senates hang in entranced attention, and that "recorded honors will thicken round his name," when they will be forgotten.

We took no notes, but we had intended to sketch the main features of his lecture, which was an intensely interesting one, and listened to with deep attention, but we have room for nothing more in our present number.

#### Valuable Suggestions.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FRIEND ISHAM: Being unable to obtain but two more subscribers (in this vicinity at present) for your valuable paper,\* I have concluded to send you three dollars more, with a request that you send my brother George J. Brown, of Ontario county, Canada, N. Y., the present volume (commencing with the first number. It will be casting your bread (seed) upon the waters which may be seen after many days. I intend to request him to try to procure a club there to send you. I do not approve of retaliations, but this will be paying them off in their own coin. We have been benefitted by receiving their publications; why not send them ours in return. There are many of my brother farmers in this state, who have friends residing east, that would be glad to peruse the pages of the Farmer. Send them the present volume, brethren, and request them to procure subscribers for the same.†

I have been highly gratified in perusing your notes by the way (on your trip through the state by Central Railroad,) especially that part which refers to Mr. Coolidge's method of raising clover, which agrees with my experience.‡ I would suggest one idea that was not advanced in that communication, which is, that when clover is plowed under, and decomposes, it gradually furnishes nutriment to the young plant, which is natural, and which sustains the same relation to the vegetable, that the milk of the dam does to the animal economy.

When ground is first prepared to receive clover seed, it should be deeply and thoroughly worked, and I think a good cultiva-



for the most suitable implement for putting in the seed, followed by the roller. When ground is to be seeded in the spring, which is into winter wheat, let the seeding be delayed till the season is sufficiently advanced for it to vegetate, then sow your seed without delay, and pass over it once with a light harrow, casting off all superfluous fears of injuring the wheat, for you will be amply repaid for the labor of harrowing, both in the wheat and clover crop.

The advantages of plaster on clover in most soils of our state, cannot be too highly appreciated. I have paid as high as twenty shillings a barrel, and found by its use I realised a dollar profit for every shilling expended.

When I commenced this letter I did not intend to extend my remarks any further than your personal interest; but the importance of a more general use of clover and plaster impressed my mind so deeply, that I concluded to send you part of my thoughts on the subject, and if you can glean anything from them which you think may prove beneficial, they are at your service, only be careful to reserve the errors for that pile of scraps which goes under the table.

I regret much that you could not have given us the promised lecture on chemistry, &c., at Battle Creek. I brought out a load of my neighbors, and after chasing all over town, did not so much as see the lecturer.

Yours truly,

D. BROWN.

Battle Creek, Feb. 9, 1849.

\*Mr. B. has previously sent us thirteen new names, making sixteen in all, a pretty handsome batch.—[Ed.]

†A good idea. There are multitudes of our subscribers who have friends East, that would be highly gratified to receive the Farmer from them as an expression of their kind remembrance, and who would at the same time, amply repay them by a reciprocation of the favor. We have been utter-

amazed that so few copies of the Farmer have been ordered in this way. Some there are—one of our business men in this city, who "has nothing to do with agriculture," takes six copies, and another four, which are sent to their friends abroad, and some of them find their way across the Atlantic.—[Ed.]

‡We are glad to have this testimony from friend Brown. Certainly, if the statement made in reference to Mr. Coolidge's method of raising clover and its results, is correct, as we did not doubt it was, and as now confirmed, it is a matter of immense consequence to all our farmers. For if, instead of being subjected to so great uncertainty, they can be sure to have their seed vegetate, after having been to so much ex-

pense and trouble to procure and sow it, and if, instead of having it run out in a year or two, it will continue to flourish for a series of years, and if while the land can be tilled and other crops taken from it, the clover crop can be made to reproduce itself, and that in the greatest abundance, without the expense and trouble of re-seeding, then surely, this is matter in which every farmer in Michigan, every farmer in the West, in the East, in the North, and in the South, and throughout the world, unless he be located in a quagmire, is deeply interested.—[Ed.]

§This is striking testimony to the value of plaster as a manure upon our Michigan lands. We do not know what is the character of friend Brown's soil, but presume, from a guess at its whereabouts, that it is burr-oak openings, and that it is a dark, sandy loam, with an admixture of gravel and clay.

¶This is a wrong sort of an excuse, altogether uncalled for. An apology for not having sooner commenced fulfilling his obligations in this particular, would have been far more pertinent, in our opinion.

¶An occurrence which we regretted certainly not less than friend B., but an old bronchial affection, aggravated by a severe cold, prevented our fulfilling our appointment in this as in one or two other instances. We regretted it the more, as we heard at the time, that quite a number of persons had come several miles for the purpose of being present at the lecture. But to make amends, we will engage that the first time we go West, we will lecture at Battle Creek, or if desired, we will be at the trouble of going into the neighborhood of our disappointed friends and lecture there.—[Ed.]

#### Plan of a Gate.

For the Michigan Farmer.

KALAMAZOO, Jan. 25th, 1849.

MR. ISHAM:—Dear Sir I have sometimes thought, that in the subject of agriculture one thing has been omitted to a considerable extent, viz: proper and convenient gates. I have waited for some one more competent than myself to give us a plan which should be within the means of all, and which should answer in the place of the more costly ones, and as necessity is the parent of invention, I have chosen a plan of my own which I call a self shutter, as it will when built and properly hung, be as sure to shut itself as a stone would to fall, if thrown into the air. I will try to explain or show how such a gate can be

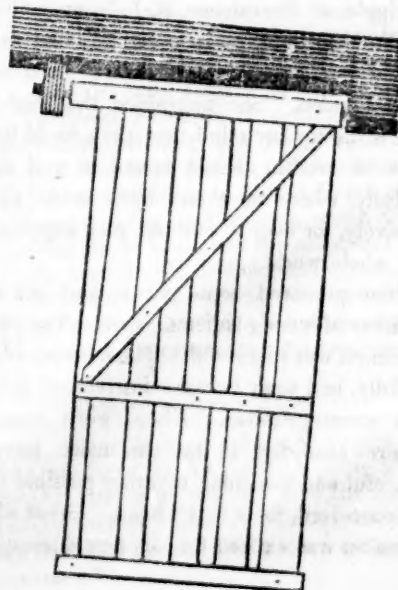
made. In the first place, I think the hole for the main post should be four feet deep or more if the soil is very loose. The post should be large enough to cut away from one side sufficient to let in the lower end of the main standard of the gate frame which will serve as a hinge for the bottom. Then take a piece of scantling about 3 by 5 inches, bore a 2 inch hole in one end of it, and make a tenon on the other end, and insert it into the post at or near the top, and you have the hinges complete. The main thing however, to be observed, is the setting of the main post which should stand inclined a little from the post which the gate shuts to, as in the rude cut below, but still inclined more in the direction opposite to the position of the gate when thrown open, which will always make it incline to shut itself. In this cut the gate is about half way open. The advantage to be derived from the inclination, is that in the winter the snows will not be in the way, as it begins to raise as soon as it begins to open.

I think it a good plan to raise the earth about one foot above the level which will obviate the difficulty to a greater extent arising from snow in winter.

I am glad to see the improvement in the Farmer, and hope it will be sustained not only by subscribing and paying, but by writing. I believe there are good practical farmers enough to fill its columns with good instruction, but it seems to me they are rather backward in telling what they know. I think justice demands something from them more than we have seen.

I have been making some effort to get a club of ten in this neighborhood for some time and have now succeeded. I also wish you to send me the third number of volume five, as I never received it for some cause. Inclosed is the amount of our subscription.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.



For the Michigan Farmer.

**Straw Hats and Bonnets.**

TO FARMERS' DAUGHTERS AND COUNTRY MERCHANTS.

Mr. ISHAM: What have Straw Hats and Bonnets to do with agriculture? asks the farmer. Holding to the rule, that the more diversified the pursuits that are introduced into our State, the better it is for the cultivator of the soil, you will pardon me for saying a few words to farmers' daughters, on a branch of employment that will add to their comfort, promote industry, and instead of wasting away their time in idleness and useless employment, enable them not only to support themselves, but increase the income of the farm.

The manufacture of straw hats and bonnets, however trivial it may appear at first view, is more extensive than many imagine. It seldom happens in a civilized country, that the females are as productive a class as the opposite gender. As the earnings of females are at their own disposal, it gives them a greater degree of influence than they would otherwise possess. The truth of this statement is illustrated by adverting to past history. The most shining periods of their history were those in which the modesty, fidelity, economy, and various other domestic virtues of the female sex, inspired the men with noble sentiments and excited in them a spirit of industry, frugality, and love of domestic life.

The Yankees are called a people "full of new inventions." They are noted for their industry—both male and female. Many are the occupations now carried on in New England, wholly by females. That of the manufacture of straw braid, is not the least. Straw braid, however, did not originate there, but in Europe. The first made in this country was in 1797. To Mrs. Naomi Whipple, of Providence, R. I., belongs the credit of introducing it. Her husband received a consignment of straw bonnets from London. She unbraid the straw, and made up her mind that they could be manufactured in Rhode Island as well as in Italy, where they had been made exclusively, for over a century, and supplied the whole world.

She procured some straw and set a number of young ladies to work. The experiment was successful. The bonnets sold rapidly, and soon became introduced into the country towns. They were every where conceded to be the most tasty, graceful and becoming covering possible to be conceived, for a lady's head. Great admiration was excited for this new domestic

manufacture. They were pronounced superior in style to the latest importation from Italy. Nothing was talked of among the ladies but the "new straw bonnets," and soon the great art of straw braiding was possessed throughout the whole of New England. The more serious and thoughtful thought they were too gay; yet in spite of the hiss of prudes, and the caution of mothers, the girls would not be content until each were possessed of a new straw bonnet. They were first manufactured, not so much for the sake of money as for the purpose of admiration.

The progress of the business soon introduced it as an article of commerce and the bonnets were sent to New York, the southern cities, and exported abroad, even to the Bay of Honduras.

Our object at this time, however, is not to write a history of the straw business, but to call the attention of the daughters of our State to consider the matter of an extension of this branch of industry at the west, and instead of being a charge to their parents, to induce them to become great help-mates; particularly those whose industry would contribute to lift a mortgage from their father's farm, or add to his cultivated fields.

As before stated, the braid business still continues to be a large one in New England; probably amounting to *three millions of dollars annually*. As many will not seem willing to credit the statement, we copy the statistics of it in only *one State*, collected in 1846.

COUNTIES.	No. of Bonnets and Hats.	Value.	Value of Braid not made into Bonnets.	No. of Palm leaf Hats.	Value.	Females employed.
Suffolk,	13,000	\$17,530		4,015	\$101	64
Essex,	4,327	\$5,230	\$31,314	33,315	10,227	1,300
Middlesex,	61,451	\$7,011	\$1,057,892	1,057,892	218,821	3,692
Worcester,	129,312	\$1,011	\$1,011	7,727	11,336	1,692
Hampshire,	\$2,000	\$1,000		91,383	13,392	301
Hampden,	4,012	306	130	67,163	89,144	20
Springfield,	357	400	2,435	7,220	4,015	711
Berkshire,	610,453	\$45,092	4,602			230
Norfolk,	101,703	\$7,225	14,407			432
Plymouth,	23,651	40,740	1,253			
Barnstable,				12,400	2,225	18,311
<b>Total.</b>	<b>1,036,031</b>	<b>\$1,057,892</b>	<b>\$102,367</b>	<b>43,434</b>	<b>\$150,257</b>	<b>18,311</b>

Let us see how this foots. We give the value of each class manufactured:

Value of bonnets and hats,	\$1,057,892
Value of braid sold, not made up,	102,367
Value of palm leaf hats,	409,237
<b>Total value,</b>	<b>\$1,648,496</b>

A large business for one State. It also gives employment to 13,311 females. It is customary there for young ladies, in going out to spend an afternoon, to take their braid with them. Thus their fingers are kept busy, while conversation is going on. Why cannot it be so here?

The usual mode of carrying on the business in New England, is this: the country store-keepers furnish the straw and receive the bonnets or hats, and pay for them in goods, and then consign them to the cities for sale. Some merchants take to the New York market every spring, from three to six thousand dollars worth, and thus purchase their spring supplies. In New York they are sold to southern and western merchants, milliners and dealers, every country merchant taking from one to four cases.—No invoice of a country or city dry goods store is filled without them.

In Detroit, a considerable quantity of what is called French straw hats, are annually sold. We are told that within the last three years, large numbers have been exported east, and a quick market is found. Those now made are furnished by the French women, and some from Canada.—Where one now finds its way to the New York market, thousands should. The material is abundant, being rye, oat, and wheat straw, and is now suffered to rot, or is burnt in stacks. What is now thrown away, if used in manufacturing, would pay for plaster, ashes, marl, or even guano, to replenish the fields from which it was taken. Every farmer, who has daughters, could employ their time profitably, by braiding and sewing the hats or bonnets. Hundreds of our city and village girls could thus be profitably employed, and earn thrice the wages they do, from ready made clothing establishments.

Our country merchants would find it a great object to commence their manufacture. They would then be able to meet the payments for their eastern goods by consignments of the products of their customers, instead of paying shaves or interest for money to meet their New York bills, when a crop fails, or they meet with other difficulties in collections. Try it.

Who will go into the business? The capital required is small. Every merchant can carry it on by the sale of his goods, which will be equal to cash to him in the eastern market. The fashion of straw bonnets would soon become as general at the west as at the east. The artificial wheat and barley in ears, which so beautifully decorates the straw gypsies and bonnets of the Yankee girls, would find the following appropos:

"Who now of threatening famine dare complain,  
When every female forehead teams with grain?  
See how the wheat-sheaves nod amid the plumes!  
Our looms are now transferred to drawing rooms;  
And husbands who now indulge in active lives,  
To fill their granaries, may thresh their wives."

Yours, as ever, J. SNOW.



### The way Mr. Winchell raises corn and Prepares his ground for Wheat.

For the Michigan Farmer.

COLUMBIA, Jan. 20th, 1849.

MR. ISHAM:—I have, for the last two years, planted my corn in rows ten feet apart one way and three the other. This method of planting suits me for many reasons. It obviates the necessity of a naked summer fallow, saves plowing at least twice, and gives a chance for more meadow and pasture.

Perhaps it will do no harm to tell you how it is done. First, haul all the manure you have on the land you intend for your summer fallow or corn field, plow deep and well, and be not afraid of wearing out your ground with the harrow. When this is done, provide yourself with as many poles as you may need, the length you intend to have your corn apart; in this way you may have your rows as straight as you please. I should have the poles ten feet apart one way by three the other. It is not the object to get a large yield of corn per acre, but to raise your corn and wheat with the least labor, and keep your farm in the best condition.

After your corn is planted, keep the weeds down with the cultivator, harrow and hoe, if needed. A two horse cultivator is best, but a harrow, if started in season, will soon drive weeds from your fields. If you have not horses, oxen will do as well, for they can be managed between the rows this distance apart. You have no summer fallow to call you from your corn field; stick to it until the last weed has stepped out. Then if you do not have an extra crib of corn, you may call me a ninny. You can sow your wheat when your corn is standing, if you have not time to get it off. Cultivate your wheat between the rows of corn, for it does not need plowing, and in my opinion you are as sure of a good crop of wheat as you would be if you had summer fallowed your ground in the best manner.

Sow clover in the spring, say the first of May on your wheat; give it a good harrowing; you will not injure your wheat; it will do it good and prepare the ground for your clover. A. R. WINCHELL.

**Riches.**—"The true wealth of a community is its labor, its productive labor. A man is not the richer for houses which he cannot occupy, lands which he cannot use, money that he cannot spend. He might die of starvation in the undisturbed possession of the mines of Peru. Labor is the great source of subsistence and wealth."

### LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

#### Home Education of Daughters.

**Messrs. Editors:**—There is a subject which might, perhaps, with propriety, find a place in your journal, if some able pen could take it up, and treat it according to its importance. The subject to which I allude is the *Home Education of Daughters*.

Where, but at home, are nurtured and expanded all the finer feelings of our nature, all the sympathies of the heart? The daughter, in relieving the mother of pressing and indispensable cares, of administering to the wants of father, brother, or sister, enjoys infinitely more heartfelt satisfaction, than she could in displaying her attainments, (be they ever so numerous,) in what are styled the more polite accomplishments.

The aim of education seems to be, to fit each of us to fill with ability and propriety our individual station in life. A correct home education must, therefore, be regarded as the corner-stone of all that is truly desirable, excellent, or beautiful, in female accomplishments. What though the superstructure be ever so beautiful and elegant, ever so symmetrical and tasty; yet, if the foundation be deficient, where is the worth of the edifice? Who would choose it for a resting-place? Who would repose in it with trust and security?

The American mother should, above all others, feel the importance of training her daughters to habits of domestic industry, to the cares and duties of *real* life, which tend to call forth the enterprise and energies of their natures, which qualify for usefulness, rather than to shine and dazzle. Let the useful, the agreeable, and ornamental, be made to harmonize. Our daughters should be taught to feel that a practical acquaintance with domestic labor is as indispensable to their thorough education, as the knowledge of music, drawing, or the languages, and that to understand plain needlework is much more requisite than skill in embroidery. There is time enough, if introduced advantageously, from infancy to maturity, to learn all these things.—While a practical knowledge of every branch of household economy detracts nothing from her accomplishments, it adds a pleasing lustre to her character.

If, now, I have said enough to provoke some competent person to take up this subject, you will not again be troubled with communications from

IDA.

—Central N. Y. Farmer.

**Boiling Water.**—We wish to correct a mistake that prevails among many of our housekeepers, which is, that the hotter the fire, the hotter the water that is boiling over it. Now, the boiling point of water is two hundred and twelve degrees, and hotter than that it cannot be made, in an open vessel, or in one covered with a loose lid, however great the fire under it may be. As soon as water reaches the temperature of two hundred and twelve in the ordinary state of the atmosphere, it commences

boiling, and any increase of heat under it only increases the evaporation, without in any manner changing the temperature of the water. After reaching the boiling point, water is changed into vapor or steam, which absorbs the heat as fast as it comes in contact with the water, and immediately carries it off into the atmosphere, combined with water, in the form of vapor.

#### Female Amusements of the Present day.

We are frequently pained to see drawing rooms and parlors filled with young ladies, for hours together, without any visible employment. They have run through an idle unmeaning round of calls, or profligate, needless shopping in the early part of the day, and a *tea fight* or *hop*, or a flirting match comes off at night, which consumes the remainder of the mis-spent day. Sad perversion of the intellect and bodies of what should be rational, intelligent, and useful beings.

We boast of advancement in manners, refinement of pursuits—we deem many of the fashions and habits of the present day as *retrogrades*, not advances, as approximating closely to the idleness, frivolity, and dissipation of savage life, rather than progress towards one of greater refinement and utility. The good old days of the hatchel, the cards, the spinning wheel, the loom and the bleaching tub, were vastly more consonant to the duties of wives and mothers, and the welfare of the human race, than the present ones of the piano, the guitar, the opera, the polka, and the waltz.

Let sensible women who have right notions of female manners and duties, take the matter in hand before it is too late, and correct the downward tendency of female (mis-called) accomplishments. Provide for the young women the large rim spinning wheel, by which they can dance off some of the buxom hilarity of youth; and for the older ones, or infirm, the smaller, buzzing, sedentary, pedal wheel and distaff, where they can compose and lull their matron sensibilities to the quiet realities of life. "And when the evening shades prevail," let the quiet knitting, with the old fashioned sheath pinned upon the side, employ the busy fingers of all, as they are gathered round the cheerful fireside of the honest, prudent, and therefore, independent American farmer. Here, both brothers and beaux may learn a lesson of enjoyment, purity, and content, which they may look for in vain amid the saloons of the city or even world-be-fashionable country life. What more is wanting for success and enjoyment on earth? What more favorable position for preparation for heaven.

EVA.

—American Agriculturist.

**Poor Wives.**—"As well might the farmer have the Venus de Medicis placed in his kitchen for a wife," says the Rev. Henry Colman, in one of his agricultural lectures—"as some of our fashionable women."

## YOUNG MEN'S DEPARTMENT.

## Department for Young Men.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. ISHAM—Sir: I was glad to observe a department of your paper assigned to young men. They are, perhaps, the most important class of your readers. They are certainly an important portion of community, for it is to them we must look to sustain our national character, and perpetuate our national institutions. It is to the young men engaged in agriculture, that we look to perfect and carry out our plans of improvement, and place them on that firm foundation which shall justly entitle them to the respect and admiration of all classes of community. And we shall not look in vain. There are, I am proud to say, in Michigan, high-minded and honorable young men, who have chosen agriculture as the road to usefulness and respectability; who possess those elements of character which will ensure success. Untrammelled by the prejudices which have too often governed their parents, and hindered the progress of improvement, they look with enquiring minds to every source from which knowledge or skill may be derived, and are thus enabled to improve not merely in individual circumstances, but also in individual character. And there is much in the occupation of the farmer to develop, not only his physical capacities, but to elevate and improve his intellectual endowments, and to add vigor and strength to his moral perceptions. The book of nature opens rich and large before him, and who can so well read it as he who sees nature in all its beauty, in all its simplicity, in all its grandeur? And happy is he who has been early taught to "look through nature up to nature's God." He who can read the pencillings of Jehovah's hand in the delicate wild flowers, that grow by his path, or look upward and trace his finger prints in the evening sky, has within himself sources of happiness which no incidental circumstances can deprive him of. I pity that young man, who, surrounded by all the wealth of nature, has no eye nor ear to perceive, nor heart to appreciate its beauties. I more than pity him, who, accustomed from early life to the occupations of rural industry, can, without just cause, leave those occupations for the precarious advantages of a city life, all unprepared as he is for the snares which will be spread for his feet by the unprincipled and the designing. And would it were not true that

such are often found walking with accelerated speed the road to ruin. R.

## Horace Greeley.

Some writer has lately described the Editor of the *New York Tribune*, and member of the present Congress, in the following terms:—

"HORACE GREELEY was born at Amherst, New Hampshire, February 3d, 1811 and is the oldest of five children now living. His father and mother, who still survive, were natives of New Hampshire, and belonged to families long resident there. In 1820, his father removed to Westhaven Vermont, near Lake Champlain, and with his sons, was engaged in clearing land for a farm upon contract. Here he remained for six years—Horace being employed either in assisting in the saw-mill, or upon the farm, which his father worked upon shares. During this time he enjoyed no advantages of education superior to the common-school of the day, (and then they were literally more common than now in facilities of education) and, in fact, he has never, to this day, attended any other than a district school. His evenings were devoted to reading and study, the means for which were often furnished by his neighbors, when his own limited resources failed. In those long winter evenings he laid the foundation of a prosperity which, emanating entirely from strict self-culture, has seldom been equalled and never excelled by that of any young man similarly circumstanced. What a lesson to the youth of America is presented in the picture of his early struggles, later trials and subsequent triumphs! What a victory of mind over accident of birth, what a complete prostration of bodily difficulties, by the genius of mental endowment! On the 18th of April 1827, he entered, as an apprentice, the printing-office of the *Northern Spectator*, at East Poultney, Rutland County, Vermont. Here he remained till the paper was discontinued, in June, 1830. His relatives, in the meantime, had removed to Wayne, Erie County, Pennsylvania, and on leaving East Poultney, he followed them. There he remained about one year, working in the different printing-offices of Lodi, Jamestown and, we believe, Fredonia. He was then known to fame only as a flaxen-haired journeyman printer, not particularly promising in talent, or likely ever to create much of a sensation in the world. In August, 1831, he left Wayne for the city of New York, where he thought he might procure steady work, and has ever since resided in the latter place. For the first year and a half he labored in a printing-office as a journeyman, most of the time, we believe, in a job-office, which then stood just above the corner of Duane, in Chatham street. Many interesting anecdotes are related of him during those eventful eighteen months. His subsequent history is well known to the world.

## Effects of Habit on the Infant Mind.—

I trust everything to habit; habit, upon which, in all ages, the lawgiver, as well as the schoolmaster, has mainly placed his reliance; habit, which makes everything easy, and casts all difficulties upon the deviation from the wonted course. Make sobriety a habit, and intemperance will be hateful and hard; make prudence a habit, and reckless profligacy will be as contrary to the nature of the child grown an adult, as the most atrocious crimes are to any of your lordships. Give a child the habit of sacredly regarding the truth, of carefully respecting the property of others, of scrupulously abstaining from all acts of improvidence which can involve him in distress, and he will just as likely think of rushing into an element in which he cannot breathe, as of lying, or cheating, or stealing.—*Lord Brougham.*

## MECHANICS' DEPARTMENT.

## The Telegraph and Meteorology.

We some time since stated that among the useful purposes to which the Electric Telegraph might be applied, was that of giving notice of storms, thus announcing the danger in advance and rendering very efficient service to vessels and others interested. We now learn that the fact has been in reality tested, and with the most successful results.

The Cincinnati Atlas, in a recent number, says: The *Telegraph* now gives notice of storms! For example, the telegraph at Chicago and Toledo now gives notice to shipmasters at Cleveland and Buffalo, and also on Lake Ontario, of the approach of a northwest storm. The result is practically of great importance. A hurricane storm traverses the atmosphere at about the rate of a carrier-pigeon, viz., sixty miles an hour. An extremely violent wind may go faster. All our great and violent storms traverse immense regions of country; in fact, they are whirlwinds on a vast scale, and curving over the earth as they pass along. In the space of a thousand miles, however, the direction is nearly the same. Our northwest winds come apparently from the sources of the lakes, and, sweeping over Lake Superior, Michigan, and Erie, spend themselves in the interior of the country. Our southwest winds (which prevail three-fourths of the year) come apparently from the Gulf of Mexico, where the force is very great, and pass up the general direction of the Mississippi and Ohio. Commencing at these remote points, it is obvious that if telegraph offices are established at the extremes of the line, notice of the approach of a violent wind may be given to distant parts from twelve to twenty hours before it will be felt there. The practical effect will be that vessels in the port of New York, about to sail for New Orleans, may be telegraphed 20 hours in advance, that a southwest storm is advancing on the coast from the Gulf of Mexico. The storms are governed by uniform laws, so that when





## DETROIT PRICE CURRENT.

Flour, bbl 3 80	\$3 87	Salt, \$1 31
Corn, bus.	54	Butter, 12 1/2
Oats, 22	Eggs, doz.	14
Rye, 37	Hides, lb.	3a6 1/2
Barley, 56	Wheat, bus.	75
Hogs, 100 lbs 3 50	4 25	Hams, lb. 6a7
Apples, bush 25a50	Onions, bu.	50a63
Potatoes, 62	Cranberries, 1	75
Hay, ton, 8 00	10a10 00	Buckwheat 100lbs. 1 50
Wool, lb. 14a28	Indian meal, "	75
Peas, bu, 75	Beef, do 2 00	a2 50
Beans, 75a80	lard, lb. retail, 7	
Beef, bbl. 6 00	a7 00	Honey, 10
Pork, 10 50	a11 50	Apples, dried, 2 00
White fish, 6 00	a6 50	Peaches, do 4 50
Trout, 5 50	a6 50	Clover seed, bu. 1 00
Cod fish, lb. 5a5 1/2	Herd's grass do 75	
Cheese, a8	Flax do 75	
Wood, cord 2 a 25	Lime, " bbl 75	

GARRETT & GEIGER,  
BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

Corner of Jefferson and Woodward Avenues,  
DETROIT.

Books and Pamphlets printed and bound to order; blanks of every description, cards, handbills, together with all other kinds of work in our line of business, will be performed with promptness and accuracy. Printing done in colored inks.

## DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES CHEAP FOR CASH.

WE have constantly on hand one of the largest and best stocks of Goods in Detroit. Thankful for the very liberal patronage of our friends, we solicit its continuance, assuring them that we will make it for their interest to call and see us. We have constantly on hand a supply of good Groceries for family use, and as we sell for cash, it enables us to offer either Dry Goods or Groceries, at the lowest possible price. Our 4s. 6d Tea is too well known to require further comment. We will only say, beware of a spurious article, that many will attempt to palm off.

HOLMES & BARCOCK,  
Woodward Avenue.  
Jan. 1.

## Michigan Book Store.

C. MORSE & SON, wholesale and retail dealers in BOOKS and STATIONERY, continue business at the old stand, on Jefferson Avenue, Detroit. They respectfully invite Country Merchants and Teachers, to their extensive stock of SCHOOL and CLASSICAL BOOKS, embracing every kind in use. Their assortment of Miscellaneous Books is very large, and in good bindings, from which a better selection can be made for town-ship and family libraries, than at any other establishment.

They also keep on hand, all kinds of English and American STATIONERY; fine Foolscap and Letter Paper; Printing Paper, (superior quality;) Printing Ink, Wrapping Paper, &c. &c. Also, Medical and Law Books.  
Jan. 15, 1849

## To Country Merchants &amp; Others.

THE Subscribers have established themselves in Detroit, for the purpose of furnishing this State with Crockery and Glass Ware, at equally as advantageous terms as can be obtained at any Eastern House.

Our stock of common, plain and fine printed ware is now complete, and is of the most modern shapes, patterns and colors, freshly imported and expressly adapted to this market, and will be carefully packed at New York and Boston packing prices. Also an extensive stock of Church, Parlor, and Office Lamps, Chandeliers, Girandoles, Globes, Chimneys, Wicks, Silver Plated and Britannia Ware, Tea Trays and Waiters, Fancy Goods, &c. &c. &c.  
Jan. 1, 1849 A. E. & S. J. MATHER & CO.  
Kearley's New Block, Jeff. above Woodward ave.

## WHOLESALE &amp; RETAIL.

ALEX. McFARREN, Bookseller and Stationer, 137 Jefferson Avenue, (Smart's Block,) Detroit, keeps constantly for sale a complete assortment of Miscellaneous, School and Classical Books; Letter and Cap paper, plain and ruled; Quills, Ink, Sealing wax, Cutlery, Wrapping paper, Printing paper of all sizes; and Book, News and Cannoner Ink of various kinds; Blank books, full and half bound, of every variety of ruling; Memorandum Books, &c. To Merchants, Teachers and others buying in quantities, a large discount made. Sabbath School and Bible Society Depository.  
Jan. 1.

## Ready Made Clothing.

THE Subscribers are now prepared to offer at their well known "Emporium," one of the largest and most complete assortments of Ready Made Clothing ever offered in this city. Being manufactured under their own immediate inspection, they can warrant it of the best material, workmanship and style. Their goods having been recently purchased at the unprecedented low prices at which goods are now selling in the New York and Boston markets, they are consequently enabled to offer all descriptions of garments most astonishingly low. Among their stock may be found: Broadcloth Coats; Cloth, Cassimere, Tweed and Blanket Overcoats; Cloth, Cassimere and Tweed Frock, Dress and Sack Coats. All descriptions, qualities, and styles of Cloth, Cassimere, Prince Albert Coat, Tweed and Sattinet Pantaloons, Satin, Velvet, Cashmere, Silk and Cassimere Vests, Goodyear's India Rubber Goods, in all their varieties, together with a large stock of Shirts, Drawers, Stocks, Cravats, and Hosiery, of all descriptions. Persons in want of any description of Gentleman's wearing apparel, will find it to their advantage to call before making their purchases, as they are determined to sell both at Wholesale and Retail, at prices which cannot fail to give satisfaction. Call and satisfy yourselves, at the old store, corner of Jefferson and Woodward avenues.  
Jan. 1. HALLOCK & RAYMOND.

New Publishing House,  
AND WHOLESALE BOOK & STATIONERY STORE

THE undersigned begs to inform book buyers, book sellers, teachers and dealers in books, stationery and paper hangings, borders, fireboard views and window paper, that they have this day opened an extensive Book, Stationery and Paper Hanging Establishment, which comprises a general assortment of books in the various departments of literature, a full stock of school and classical books, (in general use;) LAW, MEDICAL and THEOLOGICAL WORKS, Miscellaneous Books and Paper Hangings, in great varieties, can be had at eastern prices.

Their facilities as publishers enable them to offer books on as reasonable terms as any of the eastern houses. Orders from the country respectfully solicited and promptly attended to. Citizens and the public generally are invited to call and examine our stock, as we feel confident inducements are offered to purchasers rarely met.

F. P. MARKHAM, 170, Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.

## Detroit Seed Store.

F. F. Parker and Brother offer for sale a full assortment of Garden, Field and Flower Seeds and Agricultural Implements, Ploughs, Corn Shellers, Seed Plants, Straw Cutters, &c. &c.  
Jan. 1. F. F. PARKER & BRO.  
Agents, Genesee Seed Store.

## Crockery, China &amp; Glassware.

FREDK WETMORE would respectfully invite the attention of all wishing to purchase Crockery, China, Glassware, Looking Glasses, Britannia Ware, Solar Lard Lamps, Store Lamps, Camp and Lamps, Girandoles, Silver plated Ware, Teapots, Knives, Forks, Spoons, &c. to call and examine his prices and stock, before purchasing. Having a very large and fine stock of all articles in his line, he is prepared to sell at very low prices, at the old Crockery Store "Elford's Block," Jefferson Avenue, near Woodward.  
Detroit, Jan. 1, 1849.

THE Very best assortment of DRY GOODS, BONNETS & RIBBONS, Groceries, Paper Hangings and Window Shades may be found at Wholesale or Retail, at

## JAMES A. HICKS',

130 JEFFERSON AVENUE, DETROIT.

At prices that will defy competition. A general assortment of housekeeper's articles, consisting in part of Carpets, Feathers, Marseilles Quilts, Blankets, &c. always on hand. Tea and Coffee drinkers are particularly invited to examine his 4s Young Hyson and Gunpowder tea, and his Coffee and Sugar, for he feels confident they will pronounce these articles the best in the market for the price.

## LUTHER BEECHER'S,

(Next door to the Michigan State Bank.)

## CARPETS AND DRY GOODS.

THE Best assortment that can be found in the City of Detroit, consisting of: Super Imperial Brussels and Wilton carpets, 10s to 18s; splendid three ply Lawrence and Thompsonville carpets, 10s to 12s; super two ply ingrain carpets; new pattern carpets, 6s to 8s; good assortment all wool Auburn carpets, 4s 6d to 6s; beautiful union carpets, ingrain pattern, 2s to 4s. Venetian stair carpets, rugs, druggetts, &c., &c., cheap.

In all, over 14,000 yards, and will be sold at a small advance from cost. Dry Goods and Dry Groceries I will sell either at Wholesale or Retail at lower prices than any other establishment in the city.

Wholesale and Carpet Rooms, Up Stairs.  
Jan. 1. LUTHER BEECHER

## TO THE PUBLIC.

I am back again from the East, and have up my old Sign, "New York Dye-House," Woodward Avenue, next to W. K. Coyle's store, and opposite the old Depot. I am fully prepared, as heretofore, to

## DYE SILK, WOOLLEN AND COTTON.

Merino Shawls cleaned and dyed; Moreen curtains, white Kid Gloves, Carpets, &c., &c. cleaned. Gentlemen's faded clothes cleaned and dyed in Eastern style, and Woollen Yarn dyed to any pattern.

Detroit, Jan. 1, 1849. H. A. YOUNG.

## Detroit Plaster Mill.

THE Undersigned have erected a Plaster Mill upon the wharf adjoining Wm. Brewster's storehouse below and near the foot of Randolph street, which will be in full operation by the middle of January next. Having a large supply of stone plaster on hand, of two different kinds, Sandusky white, and Grand River, Canada, which is a superior article and well tested. We will be able to supply the farmer and mechanic with any quantity or quality he may want. We expect to keep a constant supply on hand, and to sell at such rates as will induce the purchaser to call, presuming that he will be glad to purchase fresh from the mill, using his own bags and boxes, and thus save not only the weight now lost in the barrel, but the cost of the barrel itself, which will be the difference made in the price, thus saving to himself something like two dollars per ton. We shall also grind corn in the ear, and other coarse grain for feed.

DAVID FRENCH, Agent.

Detroit, January 1, 1849.

## Real Estate Agency.

## DETROIT MICHIGAN.

THE Undersigned have unequaled facilities for the purchase and sale of Real Estate; the payment of Taxes, including Lands sold for Taxes; the purchase of Lands at Tax Sales; the Examination of Titles; the Entry of State or Government Lands; the Examination and Platting of Lands; Leasing City and Village Property, and Collecting Bonds, Mortgages, and other evidences of debt; the purchase and sale of Michigan State Liabilities, &c.

They have careful and trustworthy Agents at the principal places in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and in each of the organized Counties of this State, and have also Township Plats of nearly all the Towns of the State. They have for sale the following unimproved land lying in the several counties of Michigan, as follows:

Allegan,	45,000	Lapeer,	28,000
Barry,	32,000	Lenawee,	3,500
Berrien,	15,000	Livingston,	6,000
Branch,	11,000	Macomb,	3,000
Cass,	2,300	Monroe,	8,500
Calhoun,	15,000	Oakland,	6,000
Clinton,	24,000	Ottawa,	12,000
Eaton,	12,000	Shiawassee,	8,000
Genesee,	15,000	Saginaw,	18,000
Hillsdale,	10,000	St. Clair,	22,000
Ingham,	9,000	St. Joseph,	4,000
Isabella,	35,000	Van Buren,	14,000
Jackson,	5,000	Washtenaw,	4,500
Kent,	22,000	Wayne,	12,000
Kalamazoo,	12,000		

The above lands embrace every variety of soil, timber surface, location, &c. They were mostly entered at early day and selected by practical agriculturists. Among them are large tracts of splendid pine land.

CITY AND VILLAGE PROPERTY. Consisting of brick and wood stores, dwelling houses and lots, and vacant lots in the cities of Detroit and Monroe, and in the villages of Ann Arbor, Jackson, Marshall, Kalamazoo &c., also improved farms in almost every county in the state. All the foregoing property will be sold at reasonable prices and on easy terms. Titles warranted, and taxes all paid to date of sale.  
Jan. 1. MACY & DRIGGS.

## DYING &amp; SCOURING.—The

subscriber, having opened a dying establishment North side of Jefferson Avenue, (corner of Jefferson Avenue and Shelby Street.) nearly opposite the Michigan Exchange, is prepared to execute orders of every description in his line of business, and in a style which has never been surpassed in the Western country. Shawls, Scarfs, Merinoes, China crapes, and every species of foreign fabric dyed and finished in the best style. Moreen curtains, Damask curtains, dyed and watered. Gentlemen's wearing apparel scoured, and the color renovated or dyed, without taking the garments apart.  
M. CHAPPELL

DETROIT, Oct. 7, 1848.

TERMS.—The MICHIGAN FARMER is published twice a month, by WARREN ISHAM, at the rate of one dollar a year in advance; after three months, \$1.25; after six months, \$1.50; after nine months, \$1.75. No subscription taken for less than one year, nor discontinued till all arrearages are paid. To clubs, five copies for four dollars.

Office on King's corner, third story.